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Summary: Delivering Antimicrobial Transparency in Animals (DATA) Act

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Minority Staff

The Delivering Antimicrobial Transparency in Animals (DATA) Act would increase our knowledge of how antibiotics and other antimicrobials are used in food-producing animals. Specifically, the bill will:

- Require drug manufacturers to obtain and provide better information to FDA on how their drugs are used by determining (or estimating) the amounts of their drugs used in each food-producing animal for which they are approved (e.g., cattle, swine, and poultry);
- Improve the timing and quality of the data that FDA publicly releases

Additionally, the DATA Act will, for the first time, require large-scale producers of poultry, swine, and livestock to report data on the medicated feeds provided to their animals. The bill would require these producers to submit data to FDA detailing the type and amount of antibiotics and other antimicrobials contained in the feed they use. If the medicated feed is under a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD), more detailed information must be provided to FDA, including the quantities, dosages, and duration of time the medicated feeds were provided to the animals.

The DATA Act requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture to improve the collection of data on the use of antibiotics and other antimicrobial drugs in or on food producing animals.

The DATA Act also would require FDA to finalize within 180 days its guidance for drug sponsors wishing to comply with FDA's recommendations for judicious use of medically important antibiotics and other antimicrobial drugs in animals. It would require GAO in three years to evaluate the FDA voluntary approach to reducing or eliminating injudicious use of antimicrobials in animals, and the effectiveness of FDA's antimicrobial data collection process.